

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 9 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended herein.

The Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 Should Be Withdrawn

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 4, 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,115,269 (hereinafter "Masanaga") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,793,422 (hereinafter "Mochizuki").

Masanaga is directed to a camera that controls the exposure using the luminance of a subject substantially at the central portion of the exposure and the luminance of the background of the exposure. To control the exposure, Masanaga discloses a process of generating an average luminance (A_v) by adding a signal from a large light-receiving region (R) to a signal from a small light-receiving region (R_{sp}) represented by the spot luminance (S_p) of a small region corresponding to the imaged position of the subject of the imaged region. The luminance difference between the average luminance (A_v) and the spot luminance (S_p) is then calculated (see column 4, lines 1-14 and Figure 1). But Masanaga does not disclose a timing control circuit that generates a timing signal defining a predetermined exposure period in accordance with the selected exposure information as required by the instant Claim 1. Further, Masanaga does not disclose the generation of a timing signal for setting an exposure period in accordance with selected exposure information as recited by the instant Claim 9. Thus, Masanaga does not disclose the selective generation of two kinds of signals based on primary and secondary information. Rather, Masanaga teaches using the average luminance (A_v) and the spot luminance (S_p) as well as the luminance difference to control the exposure.

Mochizuki is directed to a video camera that includes a comparator for comparing the level of an output signal with a reference level and an exposure time controlling circuit for controlling the exposure time in accordance with the compared output signal (see abstract). However, Mochizuki does not disclose a timing control circuit for generating a timing signal that

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defines a predetermined exposure period in accordance with selected exposure information as recited in Claim 1. Furthermore, Mochizuki does not disclose generating a timing signal for setting an exposure period in accordance with selected exposure information as recited in Claim 9. Accordingly, Mochizuki does not overcome the deficiencies of Masanaga described above and neither Masanaga nor Mochizuki teach all of the limitations of the instant Claim 1 and 9, as amended. Therefore, Applicants submit that the combination of references cited by the Examiner does not teach all of the limitations of the instant claims and request that the remaining rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

By: Robert D. Traver
Robert D. Traver
Registration No. 47,999
1560 Broadway, Suite 1200
Denver, Colorado 80202-5141
(303) 863-9700

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